

The only thing now needed to complete the happiness of all was the return of Gracie; but it was felt that she was in good hands, and that the various telegrams would certainly reach Vernon before he could think of leaving Verona. It was expected that he would receive them that day, and that he would come back by the first train on the following day. Accordingly Frank, Bob, David, and Clive entreated Uncle Moses to let them go to the station and meet them. This request was granted without any demur. Uncle Moses seemed to have lost much of his former anxious timidity. Mr. Lee was desirous of meeting Gracie on her arrival; so he went with them, and at the proper time they all stood awaiting the advent of the train.

In the mean time, as has been shown, Vernon had learned about Miss Lee's departure for Venice with Uncle Moses and Frank and Bob, while the telegrams that he afterwards received confirmed the news in the fullest manner. Although he would have liked to travel all over Italy with Gracie, yet he did not hesitate a moment about returning home; and so, as the party waited in the station-house, the train arrived, and Vernon, with his mother and Gracie, got out.

There was now a very joyous meeting, and Vernon, who, with his mother, accompanied them to the Hotel Zeno, saw Gracie restored to her guardian aunt.

That evening Vernon's home seemed lonely to